

Feasibility Study for a National Heritage Area in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta  
*Delta Protection Commission, January 2011*

The Delta Protection Commission's (DPCs) feasibility study for a National Heritage Area (NHA) in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is being conducted in response to a charge from the California Legislature in SB1 which states in Section 85301:

“(a) The [DPC] shall develop, for consideration and incorporation into the Delta Plan by the [Delta Stewardship Council], a proposal to protect, enhance, and sustain the unique cultural, historical, recreational, agricultural, and economic values of the Delta as an evolving place, in a manner consistent with the coequal goals....

(b) (1) The [DPC] shall include in the proposal a plan to establish state and federal designation of the Delta as a place of special significance, which may include application for a federal designation of the Delta as a National Heritage Area.”

In 2010, Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced a bill into Congress to directly designate the Delta as an NHA without completion of the feasibility study. If this bill had passed both houses of Congress, it would have been presumed that the legislature would agree that the spirit of the charge had been met, and therefore the DPC's feasibility study process could have been terminated.

However, Feinstein's bill was dropped in December of 2010. Therefore the DPC's feasibility study process needs to continue in order to fulfill the state mandate. The attached timeline shows the tasks that will be conducted by staff of the DPC, in order to complete a feasibility study for an NHA in the Delta by the end of 2011.

*Attachment: Delta NHA Feasibility Study Timeline - 2011*